

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 31 and 35 and leaves claim 2 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2, 31 and 35.

Claims 2, 31 and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Merrill (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,821) in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 6,319,121). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by Merrill or Yamada whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

The features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

The present invention as now recited in the claims is directed to a method and apparatus for editing a moving image displayed on a display unit. According to the present invention, a computer graphics (CG) object is designated in the moving image while moving or pausing the moving image as it is displayed on the display unit and a command list which shows a plurality of commands relating to the designated CG object is displayed on the display unit at the time of designating the CG object. The commands being listed on the command list are arranged in order of time when the commands were produced for editing the designated CG object and a subsequent portion of the moving. Thereafter, according to the present invention each command

relating to the CG object shown in the command list is designated and executed, thereby causing editing operations to be conducted on the designated CG object of the moving image according to the present invention.

The above described features of the present invention are disclosed in the specification and drawings. For example, the features of the present invention as recited in claims 31 and 35 are described in the specification in the passage beginning on page 27, line 7 through page 28, line 27 and illustrated in Fig. 1 as element 502 and Fig. 9 as steps 601-607 and are further described in the specification, for example, on page 28, lines 6-12 and illustrated in Fig. 1 as element 502.

More specifically, in correspondence to the amendments to the claims, the present invention provides additional features that when a user designates a computer graphic (CG) object while moving or pausing the moving image displayed on said display unit, the display unit displays a command list which shows commands relating to the designated CG object at the time of designating the CG object, wherein the commands are listed on the command list to be arranged in order of time when the commands were produced for editing the designated CG object and a subsequent portion of the moving image. Then the user designates one command in the list, thereby causing an editing operation on the designated CG object of the moving image to be conducted according to the present invention.

The above described additional features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the amended claims are described in the specification, for example, on page 25, lines 17-22. Therein, it is described that when the user designates a CG character displayed on a monitor window

210-1' by the mouse, the command select menu 500 is displayed. Further, referring to page 27, line 18 to page 28, line 12 and Fig. 9, the user clicks the pause button 1003 (Fig. 16) and designates a CG object to be re-edited on the monitor window 210. All the commands stored in the event storage unit 106 are acquired and a command select menu (command list) 502 containing the names of all the acquired command arranged in chronological order is produced and displayed in superimposition on the monitor window 210. The command list 500 shows the all commands which were used to edit the moving picture last time that is the used commands from the designated CG to the succeeding images in the edited moving image. The user designates one of the desired commands in the command list and the designated command is executed on the designated CG object to re-edit the CG image.

Still further, referring to page 13, lines 16-23 of the present application, according to the present invention each of the commands are described as one of editing operations of editing speech, editing motion, or editing the reproduction of the moving image or audio of the designated CG object.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in claims 2, 31 and 35 are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Merrill whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

Merrill teaches a method and system for synchronizing scripted animations such that synchronization services is provided so as to synchronize actions of two or more interactive user interface characters that are displayed simultaneously.

In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that Merrill teaches:

“displaying a command list which shoes a plurality of command relating to the designated CG object at the time of designating the CG object ... the command list arranged in order of when they were produced”.

However, this allegation by the Examiner is completely unsupported by any teaching in Merrill. Merrill teaches that a command object is provided which enables clients to specify a collection of commands that an agent object will respond to when a client becomes active. These commands could, for example, be as taught by Merrill in col. 26, lines 25-31:

“commands that the server defines for general interaction such as Stop Listening and Go Away; the list of available (but inactive) clients; and the commands defined by the current active client. The first two sets of commands are global commands; that is, they are available at anytime regardless of when the client is active. Client-defined commands are available only when that client is active”.

Thus, it is quite clear that the commands as described by Merrill are not commands which when executed causes various editing operations to be performed on a designated CG object as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that the commands as taught by Merrill are arranged in a specific time related order as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

In the Office Action the Examiner recognizes another deficiency of Merrill. The Examiner recognizes that Merrill:

“fail[s] to explicitly teach designating the CG object while moving or pausing”.

Thus, Merrill fails to teach or suggest designating a CG object while moving or pausing the moving image displayed on the display unit as recited in the claims.

Further, Merrill fails to teach or suggest displaying on the display unit a command list which shows a plurality of commands related to the designated CG object at the time of designating the CG object as recited in the claims.

Still further, Merrill fails to teach or suggest that the commands being listed on the command list are arranged in order of time when the commands are produced for editing the designated CG object in a subsequent portion of moving image as recited in the claims.

Still further yet, Merrill fails to teach or suggest designating and executing each command relating the CG object shown in the command list, thereby causing editing operations to be performed on the designated CG object of the moving image as recited in the claims.

Even further, Merrill fails to teach or suggest that each of the commands when executed, causes one of a plurality of editing operations to be performed on the designated CG object including editing speech associated with the designated CG object, editing motion of the designated CG object, and editing reproduction of a moving image or audio associated with designated CG object as recited in the claims.

The above described deficiencies of Merrill are not supplied by any of the other references of record. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention shown above not to be taught or suggested by Merrill are also not taught or suggested by Yamada. Therefore, combining the teachings of Merrill and Yamada in the manner suggested by the Examiner in

the Office Action still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Yamada teaches an image synthesis method and games machine wherein a player or a game selects a training mode on the screen menu shown in Fig. 3b of Yamada, the game characters 30 and 32 start to fight with each other and a hit position in the fighting is displayed with hit mark 34 and 38. Yamada specifically teaches, for example, with respect to Fig. 3b that different modes of operating the game can be displayed on a screen.

The mode of operation being displayed on the screen as taught by Yamada are not commands which cause editing operations to be performed on a particular designated CG object as in the present invention. More particularly, the modes of operation as listed on the screen as displayed in Fig. 3b of Yamada do not cause one of a plurality of editing operations to be performed on the designated CG object including editing speech associated with the designated CG object, editing motion of the designated of the CG object and editing reproduction of a moving image or audio associated with the designated CG object as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, it is quite clear that Yamada does not supply any of the above described deficiencies of Merrill relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Particularly, as is clear from the above, the teachings of Yamada are not even directed to the listing of commands for editing various features of a designated CG object as in the present invention.

Therefore, since both Merrill and Yamada fail to teach or suggest the features of the as now more clearly recited in the claims, combining Merrill

with Yamada does not render obvious the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1-7 as being unpatentable over Merrill in view of Yamada is respectfully requested.

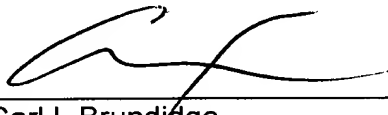
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 2, 31 and 35.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2, 31 and 35 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2, 31 and 35 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.39242X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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